GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(The National Geographic Society is a scientific and educational Society, wholly altruistic, incorporated under the Federal law as a non-commercial institution for the increase of geographic knowledge and its popular diffusion. General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.)

Contents for Week of January 4, 1937. Vol. XV. No. 25.

1. Shensi, China's Northwest Center of Mystery and Intrigue
2. End of the Trail for Borax's Twenty-Mule Team
3. Americans of Two Continents Get Together
4. News of New Year's Arrival Among Tidings Told by Bells
5. Kings Come and Go, But English Pageantry Goes on Forever

Photograph from Wide World

EVEN A CAT MAY LOOK AT A KING—BUT NOT THROUGH A PERISCOPE

British pageantry, of which a bumper crop is promised for 1937, lures throngs so large as to get in their own way. Like the Lady of Shalott, who watched the passing world in her mirror, these canny sightseers reach above the madding crowd by means of a device that became familiar in wartime and catch an unobstructed view of the colorful spectacle (see Bulletin No. 5).

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

The Geographic News Bulletins are published weekly throughout the school year (thirty issues) and will be mailed to teachers in the United States and its possessions for one year upon receipt of 25 cents (in stamps or money order); in Canada, 50 cents. Entered as second-class matter, January 27, 1922, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized February 9, 1922.

UMI

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(Founded in 1888 for the Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

Shensi, China's Northwest Center of Mystery and Intrigue

THE Generalissimo had been out-generaled, said news from Shensi. And the eyes of the Orient turned in surprise toward this little-known province of northwest China, whence came conflicting rumors about General Chiang Kai-shek.

Shensi contradicts not only rumors; it is contrary also to many popular notions of China. Does the country's name imply teeming sub-tropical plains, half-clad millions wading through green rice fields, devastating floods?

Shensi is a cool, wind-swept, yellow country, squeezed dry as a bone by drought. Earthquakes rush in where floods cannot flow, and ravage the countryside with landslides of powdery yellow dust. Except through the center, Shensi is not thickly settled, and travel is so difficult that settlers usually stay where they are. Rice is a rarity; wheat is the staple food.

Invisible Cave Dwellings Ravaged by Earthquakes

Within an area the size of Nebraska's, Shensi contains part of a desert plateau and part of China's highest mountain range, the Tsinling Shan. Dividing the two regions, the Wei River spreads its bounty through a broad, fertile valley so favorable for abundant life that it served as "the cradle of China."

The Great Wall undulates along Shensi's northern boundaries, at times insignificant and usually a futile rampart against famishing hordes from the Mongolian steppes. Chinese maps include in Shensi also a strip of countryside outside the Wall. A more effective barrier fortifies the province on the south—the towering Tsinling Mountains, reaching into China like a finger from the Himalayas. The central valley people regard these precipitous peaks with awe.

Most of Shensi, however, lies in the bare Loess Highland area of northwest China, the land that the wind built. For the soil, silky soft and free from any grit after countless centuries of being sifted by the wind, was blown into place and packed down into a mammoth cushion of powdery silt. "Hwang tu," the Chinese call it—the yellow earth.

Marco Polo Found It a Trade Center

Crude two-wheeled carts cut deeply into the loess, and roads soon become narrow, winding, twin ditches. Vertical cliffs of loess are burrowed into for humble homes. Except from below the cliff, these dwellings are invisible, and the level plain above may betray no sign of human life except a mysterious wisp of smoke rising from the ground. Modern cave men, in many cases sharing their homes with their live stock, are subject to burial alive in the event of an earthquake. Such casualties contributed to what has been called "the greatest catastrophe in human history," an earthquake spreading through this area some three centuries ago, which is believed to have killed almost a million people.

Ancient Shensi was exposed to something more welcome than earthquakes—the main routes of Oriental trade. Observant Marco Polo found a center of long-distance caravan trade in Shensi. Modern water transport has caused an about-face in China's trade frontier, and the only modern remedy for distant Shensi is the airplane. A single railroad penetrates but partially.

There is little now in the province to lure modern commerce. Wheat is the chief crop, but drought may prevent its growth over a foot high, and much of the grain must go immediately to native water-wheel mills and become flour, to stave

UMI

Photograph by E. L. Estabrook

A MOUNTAINOUS GODDESS CARVED IN THE MOUNTAINSIDE

Loyal Buddhists of Shensi province carved this tremendous Goddess of Mercy, Kwan Yin, in the living rock and decorated her with paint and gilt. She is the companion of a larger Buddha, whose huge hand appears at the picture's left margin. Christianity also reached Shensi early, for missionaries from Persia established a cathedral in Sian, the province's capital, and commemorated their success by a monument erected in 781, now the treasured Nestorian Tablet. Mosques in the same city indicate a number of Chinese Mohammedans, a distinct religious group descended from early immigrants (see Bulletin No. 1).

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(Founded in 1888 for the Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

End of the Trail for Borax's Twenty-Mule Team

WAGON wheels creaked an official farewell over the borax trail of Death Valley recently. The team of twenty mules, famous for over fifty years, pulled the last lumbering wagon into retirement.

Today Death Valley has auto roads and gasoline stations, and trailer tourists come to enjoy its mild fall and winter weather. Twenty-mule-team transportation is a remnant of days when only the tedious but profitable business of taking borax to market would lure teamsters over the Valley's dust-shrouded trails.

Softens "Hard" Water and Speeds the Glaze of Enamel

The usual mule-power "train" consisted of a string of twenty long-eared mules drawing two great wagons loaded with borax and a tank of water on wheels in the rear. The wagons were sturdily built like young box cars, costing $1,000 each. Each could carry twelve tons, bumping along on massive wheels, the rear pair of which were seven feet high.

Death Valley, although perhaps the most picturesque, is not the sole source of the world's borax supply. Workable deposits are to be found in the chilly heights of Tibet as well as in California's torrid expanses, and in the more temperate regions of Canada, Argentina, Peru, Chile, Germany, and Turkey.

Borax, to the average housewife, is tiny white crystals with which she softens "hard" water, so that soap is more efficient. She may not know that borax has probably played an important part in the production of the enamel on the bathtub, on her enamelware cooking utensils, the refrigerator, and the kitchen sink.

Lends Helping Hand in Many Industries

It may have been used as well in the manufacture of her glassware, such as her baking dishes which have high heat resistance, and even the electric light bulbs that light her home.

In industry borax is also a preservative. Lemons allowed to remain in a borax solution for several minutes keep in excellent condition a month or more longer. Leather manufacturers use large quantities of borax in tanning processes, textile manufacturers fireproof certain cloths with the mineral, welders clean metal surfaces with it, and farmers employ it to destroy fly larvae in manures without destroying the fertilizing qualities of the manures.

Out of borax, chemists make boric acid whose industrial uses are similar to those of borax. Boric acid is a recognized antiseptic and is widely used as an eye wash.

U. S. Is Chief Source of Borax

In some countries boric acid is used as a preservative of meats, but such use is frowned upon in this country by the Pure Food and Drug Act. Manufacturers of high grade cement which takes a bright polish, candle makers, laundry starch manufacturers, tanners, manufacturers of fireproof linings for safes, and enamel makers are all good customers of the boric acid producer.

More borax is produced in southwestern United States than in any other part of the world. Chile ranks a remote second. The borax diggings of the United States—mostly in Nevada and California—give up about a half million dollars' worth of borates annually.

UMI

off famine. Cotton thrives in the Wei valley. Other apparently un-Chinese vegetable inhabitants of Shensi are peanuts, tobacco, and the potato.

It is hinted that the province hides unexploited treasures of coal and oil. Shensi is one of the country's two richest provinces in coal resources, and one of the three areas in all China where oil can be obtained.

Metropolis of the province is Sian, a still medieval commercial center with a proud past. This is the important rail terminus of western China, and from here worn caravan routes radiate northwest and southwest to realms still half feudal.

Sian was one of the first of the eighteen capitals of China, the one which first united the whole country. In Sian was developed the culture which led China to adopt tea as a national beverage. Sian's civilizing effect spread to Japan, with the result that the Japanese adopted, and still use, Chinese characters in writing.

A special treasure of Sian is the Nestorian Tablet, a monument erected in 781 which shows that Christianity flourished here, with a cathedral and a large priestly staff, when the dark ages were attacking Europe. So luxurious was the old city, with its Palace of Immense Brilliance, and its courtiers dancing through a thousand lacquered rooms, that a hundred thousand workmen were kept busy in the silk mills outside the city.

Note: For numerous photographs of present-day China and Chinese life see "Peiping's Happy New Year," *National Geographic Magazine*, December, 1936; "Approach to Peiping," February, 1936; "Sungmas, the Living Oracles of the Tibetan Church," October, 1935; "Coastal Cities of China" and "Peiping, City of Dust and Color" (color insert), November, 1934; "The Glory That Was Imperial Peking," June, 1933; "Here in Manchuria," February, 1933; "From the Mediterranean to the Yellow Sea by Motor," November, 1932; "Cosmopolitan Shanghai, Key Seaport of China," also "Macao, 'Land of Sweet Sadness,'" September, 1932; "How Half the World Works," April, 1932; "Byroads and Backwoods of Manchuria," January, 1932; "Manchuria, Promised Land of Asia," October, 1929; "The World's Greatest Overland Explorer" (Marco Polo), November, 1928; "Ho for the Soochow Ho," "The Geography of China," "Life Afloat in China," "New China and the Printed Page," and "Among the People of Cathay," June, 1927; and "Where the Mountains Walked," May, 1922.

Bulletin No. 1, January 4, 1937.

Photograph by Hayes-Hall Kansu Earthquake Relief Expedition

A HOME IN SHENSI GROWS FROM THE SOIL

In Shensi, where constant cutting of trees for fuel has made wood too rare for building houses, walls are molded of soft loess blocks. When dry these bricks are ordinarily very lasting, but the tile must be used for roofs and corners to protect the walls from heavy rains and snow. The builder is packing soil down into a mold. Other inhabitants of Shensi live in loess cave houses—homes that are literally hollowed into a loess cliff.

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(Founded in 1888 for the Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

Americans of Two Continents Get Together

OUTSTANDING event in statesmanship for the year's end was the Inter-American Peace Conference in Buenos Aires. Here twenty-one American republics agreed to preserve peace and promote commerce.

This diplomatic New World Symphony indicates that harmony is easier, for many reasons, in the western hemisphere than in the eastern. In Europe alone there are more differences in official languages and in forms of government than in both continents on this side of the Atlantic. Yet the Americas attained their agreement despite greater racial variations, for all Europe's many nationalities are of the white race.

All Races Represented

The western hemisphere is a racial triangle. Governments may be strongly influenced or guided by the needs and desires of representatives of the three races of mankind—white, black, or yellow-brown, to which the Indian is assigned. Negroes, who compose a large part of the group called "natives," moved into the new world and made some territories their own by taking a mortgage on the old homestead of the Indians. Haiti, however, is the lone republic in the western hemisphere whose government is controlled solely by Negroes.

In spite of racial diversity, the only official languages are of European origin. Four tongues are generally recognized: English, Spanish, French, and Portuguese. More people speak English than any other langauge. French is in use in the largest and the smallest countries; it is a secondary speech for Canada, the giant of the new world, and the official language of little Haiti, with an area of some ten thousand crowded square miles. Portuguese has been Brazil's language since an old colonization dispute was settled, giving big Brazil to little Portugal by virtue of its easternmost location in the new world. The majority of American countries make official use of Spanish—eighteen of them.

Of the twenty-one American republics, the United States is the oldest. A broad view of the western hemisphere dispels any view that the new world is a realm of widespread industrial development, the home of the machine age. Only one country is highly industrial, the United States.

Both Continents Have Fewer Inhabitants Than China

The American street car slogan that "there is always room for one more" may be more appropriate for use in this hemisphere than in the other. In both American continents there are only half as many inhabitants as in Europe, and only five-eighths as many as in China alone. The population of North America is double that of the southern continent.

A survey of the Americas reveals a group of countries which contribute some of the world's most important commodities. Two of the leading oil producers are Mexico and Venezuela. Mexico also makes a bid for trade with minerals and hemp. What a bad humor the adult world would be in if Brazil, Colombia, or Guatemala did not supply the customary cup of coffee for breakfast! Much experimentation with milkweed and poinsettias has yet produced nothing to challenge the rubber that flows from trees in Brazil.

Long, stringy Chile is a power indeed in the mineral world, producing much of the world's supply of natural sodium nitrate and, as a by-product, the greater part of the world's iodine. It was Colombia that gave platinum first to eager

UMI

Production of the mineral began in the United States in 1864, when natural borax crystals were found in Southern California in the muddy bottoms of two lakes. It was in the 1870's that "Borax" Smith started the first large-scale exploitation of the mineral at Teele's Marsh, Nevada.

Claims Were Worth $20,000 When "She Burned Green"

But the association of borax with Death Valley, and the famous twenty-mule team, dates from 1880. In that year an old prospector, Aaron Winters, working near Furnace Creek, subjected a handful of crystals to a match flame. Suddenly he cried to his wife: "She burns green, Rosie! We're rich!" For $20,000 Winters sold his claims to one of "Borax" Smith's backers, and Death Valley became the center of the American borax industry. Its prominence has only recently vanished.

With the discovery of purer deposits elsewhere, however, the industry has moved out of the historic valley to slightly cooler and therefore more habitable regions nearby.

See also "Southern California at Work," *National Geographic Magazine*, November, 1934; "Flying the World's Longest Air-Mail Route," March, 1930; and "The Non-Stop Flight Across America," July, 1924.

Bulletin No. 2, January 4, 1937.

Photograph by Jacob Gayer

HOME OF BORAX AND HARD KNOCKS

Death Valley won its name for such hazards to travel as this rough formation called "the Devil's Golf Course." When early pioneers crossed it, they looked back without regret and commented, according to tradition, "That was certainly Death Valley." And so it has been called ever since. Discovery of borax there lured prospectors despite its evil nature. Gold prospectors and tourists, in increasing numbers, go there, but this one-way road shows little provision for heavy traffic. The "cabbage patch" appearance is due to some freak of nature in the surface soil.

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(Founded in 1888 for the Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

News of New Year's Arrival Among Tidings Told by Bells

MINGLING with raucous horns and songs of revelers at midnight of December 31, pealing bells ushered in the New Year. This annual announcement is but one of the many exciting duties of the bell.

Bells have "rung in" new chapters in history. One of these is the Liberty Bell, most beloved historical relic of the American Revolution. Prior to its cracking, the Liberty Bell had a very active "voice" in the affairs of the nation.

Its most far-reaching utterance was that of July 8, 1776, when it announced the public reading of the Declaration of Independence, which had been formally adopted by the Continental Congress on July 4, in Philadelphia.

Liberty Bell Once Hidden Beneath Church Floor in Allentown, Pa.

Threatened with British capture, it was removed from the tower of Independence Hall on September 18, 1777, and hidden beneath a church floor in Allentown, Pennsylvania, for almost a year. Rehung in the Philadelphia tower, it pealed for festivals and anniversaries until its fatal accident in 1835, when it cracked while being tolled for the funeral procession of Chief Justice John Marshall. It is now a carefully guarded relic in a room downstairs.

In Sicily, in the thirteenth century, nearly 8,000 Frenchmen listened stolidly to the ringing of Sicilian vespers, unaware that the bells were a signal for their cold-blooded massacre. In sixteenth-century France, clamor of bells cried the beginning of the wholesale murder of Huguenots.

Among England's most appealing legends about bells is that of the Bow Bells in London. When young Dick Whittington, hungry and destitute, was leaving London to seek his fortune elsewhere, he thought these bells said to him: "Turn again, Whittington, thrice Lord Mayor of London." It is a familiar tale that, cheered by them, he returned, found work, and later actually became Lord Mayor.

William the Conqueror enters the history of bells through being the first to enforce strictly the fire-prevention rule that all lights and fires should be extinguished by eight o'clock. As late as the nineteenth century, in many European towns, ringing of the curfew was a signal for the squeaking of numerous door hinges as shopkeepers hastened to obey the law. The warning bell which rang as a reminder was called the curfew (*couvre-feu* or "cover fire").

Bells Warned of Floods in Netherlands

To give warning is one of the chief functions of a bell. To the modern city dweller, its signal is not necessarily alarming. At the worst, it warns of a fire, or that one is late to school or church. But bells used to strike terror to the hearts of people in the Netherlands. When, in the silence of the night, bells jangled madly from the sentinel's watch tower, soldiers swarmed to repel approaching invaders, or townspeople rushed to repair a breaking dike.

Ship captains today, ploughing through a heavy sea, listen for the ominous clanging of bell buoys, rocking in the heavy surf, which warn of dangerous reefs.

Mountain climbers in the Alps, crossing high passes such as the Saint Bernard, keep ears cocked for the sinister bells which prophesy impending storms.

Siberian sleighs are drawn by teams of three, or even seven horses, the middle steed galloping beneath a big wooden arch from which hang numerous bells. Their

UMI

jewelers. Cuba is almost one big lump of sugar, for, although small, the island is the second largest sugar producer in the world. Its tobacco is also world famous.

Since the banana was once a novelty and a luxury, the countries of subtropical America have done much toward luxurious living. With the exception of only two or three other places, they produce all the bananas consumed by a hungry world. Hunger, however, is most successfully combatted by Argentina and Uruguay, which export enough meat to sustain millions of beef-eaters (see illustration, below). The livestock population of these countries is almost twelve times that of people.

It is evident that, if anything should disrupt the international commerce of the varied Americas, the whole world would suffer for want of essential minerals, foodstuffs, and other commodities.

Note: Additional material and photographs about the countries of the western hemisphere will be found in "Guatemala Interlude," *National Geographic Magazine*, October, 1936; "Old France in Modern Canada," February, 1935; "Travels with a Donkey in Mexico," December, 1934; "Bolivia, Land of Fiestas," November, 1934; "Haitian Vignettes," October, 1934; "Mrs. Robinson Crusoe in Ecuador," February, 1934; "Journey by Jungle Rivers to the Home of the Cock-of-the-Rock," November, 1933; "Life on the Argentine Pampa," October, 1933; "Cuba—The Isle of Romance," September, 1933; "River-Encircled Paraguay," April, 1933; "Army Engineer Explores Nicaragua," May, 1932; "Skypaths Through Latin America," and "Hispaniola Rediscovered," January, 1931; "Gigantic Brazil and Its Glittering Capital," December, 1930; "North America's Oldest Metropolis" (Mexico, D.F.), July, 1930; "Lure of Lima, City of Kings," June, 1930; "Flying the World's Longest Air-Mail Route," March, 1930; "Gentlemen Adventurers of the Air," November, 1929; "Buenos Aires to Washington by Horse," and "Twin Stars of Chile," February, 1929; "Volcanoes of Ecuador, Guideposts in Crossing South America," January, 1929; "To Bogota and Back by Air," May, 1928; "Seeing America with Lindbergh," January, 1928; "How Latin America Looks from the Air," October, 1927; "Canada from the Air," October, 1926; "Round About Bogotá," February, 1926; "On the Trail of the Air Mail," January, 1926; "America from the Shenandoah," January, 1925.

Bulletin No. 3, January 4, 1937.

Photograph by A. F. Tschiffely

HARMONY ON THE ARGENTINE RANGE

Three gauchos, with a pony in the background to complete the picture, settle down to roast beef for supper. The two chairs are cow- or horse-hip bones, tied together and "upholstered" in rawhide. The middle cowboy takes a swig of *maté* or Paraguay tea, through a hollow tube from a gourd, and the tea pot indicates that all are preparing to enjoy a drink of the national beverage, made from leaves of a hollylike shrub. Argentina is one of the world's greatest meat producing nations.

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(Founded in 1888 for the Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

Kings Come and Go, But English Pageantry Goes On Forever

KINGS may come and kings may go, but apparently English pageantry is to go on forever. That fact at least was clear in the turmoil following King Edward VIII's abdication and the recent accession of King George VI.

Solemn ritual, centuries old, acknowledged the new king exactly as it had greeted his brother less than a year before. Any individual actor, the ceremonies implied, is but a detail in the broad and brilliant pageant of England's dignity: "the play's the thing," and not the players.

Heralds of Middle Ages and of Today Are Brought Together

Two kings within a year provided much pageantry to watch. Radio broadcasts have charmed distant listeners with accounts of ceremonies, personages, and costumes which seem strange and unfamiliar to the foreign ear.

Two kings, both uncrowned, have been fully "initiated" by the ceremony of the Proclamation. This ritual provides for the official announcement, in four different spots near London's center, that there is a new king. The Proclamation is read from a parchment scroll by a member of the ancient Herald's College, although those present-day heralds, the newspaper and the radio, have already spread the news to the four corners of the earth.

Broadcasting this procedure brought to many unprepared ears such terms as the Lord Mayor at the Temple Bar, the Garter Principal King of Arms, and the Pursuivant Bluemantle, all to the rhythm of booming minute guns.

The Lord Mayor is a colorful actor in many ceremonies, but few are quainter than his assertion of ancient authority at the Temple Bar. This preserves the memory that the City of London proper is only a single mile square, with boundaries now hidden in a thick growth of business houses and government buildings.

Once, however, beginning perhaps as early as the twelfth century and continuing until 1878, the busy Strand at the Law Courts of the Temple was obstructed by a bar or chain and finally a gate which marked the entrance to the City proper. As a protective measure, the Lord Mayor once had the right to challenge any candidate for entrance. His "protective" duty is revived for state occasions, and even the king asks his permission to pass the Temple Bar.

A Silk Cord Bars the Way at Temple Bar

On the occasion of the Proclamation, a silk cord is stretched across the street at Temple Bar. The Lord Mayor, in velvet suit, plumed three-cornered hat, and swinging sword, stands his ground on the City side of the cord. The procession of Officers of Arms approaches, is challenged, and explains the necessity of proclaiming a new king. The Lord Mayor gives the order for admittance, the silken cord is cut, and the procession sweeps on its way, with due respect to tradition.

Members of this procession, the Officers of Arms or members of the Herald's College, are holders of ancient offices now charged with carrying out the pageantry of state ceremonials, such as proclaiming new kings and crowning them.

Their names today recall ancient duties, with decorative touches derived from the insignia on their costumes. There are three Kings of Arms: the Garter Principal, the Norroy, and the Clarenceux. The four Pursuivants retain splendor almost barbaric in their titles: Bluemantle, Portcullis, Rouge Croix, and Rouge Dragon. The six Heralds are accompanied by others who at intervals blow a triple flourish on silver trumpets.

UMI

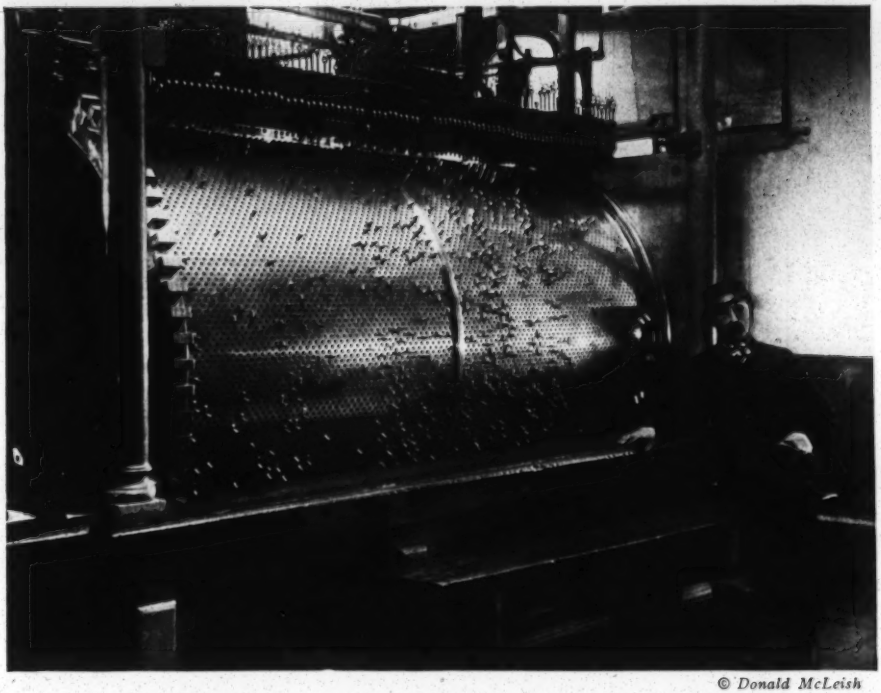
chiming not only provides musical accompaniment to the staccato pounding of hoofs, but declares their approach on the high road.

Old Russia was called "The Land of Bells," but it did not have a monopoly on them. Our pioneer forefathers rambled across the prairies in Conestoga wagons to the lilting chimes of bells swaying above their horses' shoulders. These bells frequently served as rewards. If a wagon broke down, the driver often gave its bells to wagoners who assisted him.

In the realm of business one of the world's most important bells is that which hangs under the clock in the main hall of Lloyd's of London. This is the famous *Lutine* bell, recovered long ago from a sunken British treasure ship. It is rung by a clerk to announce the wreck or arrival of an overdue vessel or simply to attract the attention of the brokers of this famous gathering place of insurance underwriters.

Note: Some pictures of bells and stories and legends concerning them can be found in "As London Toils and Spins," *National Geographic Magazine*, January, 1937; "New Safeguards for Ships in Fog and Storm," August, 1936; "Low Road, High Road, Around Dundee," April, 1936; "The Historic City of Brotherly Love," December, 1932; "Oxford, Mother of Anglo Saxon Learning," November, 1929; "St. Malo, Ancient City of Corsairs," August, 1929; "Michigan, Mistress of the Lakes," March, 1928; "Ireland: The Rock Whence I Was Hewn," March, 1927; "Russia of the Hour," and "Guatemala: Land of Volcanoes and Progress," November, 1926; "London From a Bus Top," May, 1926; "Singing Towers of Holland and Belgium," March, 1925; and "Republics—The Ladder to Liberty," March, 1917.

Bulletin No. 4, January 4, 1937.



© *Donald McLeish*

"THE RHYMING AND THE CHIMING OF THE BELLS" START HERE

This large metal drum, in the lofty carillon of Middelburg, the Netherlands, is a mechanical bell ringer. It rotates every hour with a player-piano effect on the 40 bells in the tower above. Teeth in the drum strike keys connected with wires leading to the bells. This mechanism dates from 1715, which is generally supposed to be before the "machine age." The teeth can be changed for different songs, but the same drum grinds them all out.

Their costumes resemble those of playing card kings and jacks. The archaic tabard, a loose coat with flowing sleeves, gleams with the rich, deep scarlets of silk velvet, satin, damask, and cloth of gold. A sceptre, or a gold-mounted black ebony staff, is as much a part of the costume as gold lace and white gloves.

In state coaches these brilliant figures progress from St. James's Palace, where the Proclamation is first read from the balcony, to Charing Cross, to Chancery Lane, and to the steps of the Royal Exchange. At each stop they proclaim anew the new king to the assembled crowds and the troops drawn up at attention.

The Proclamation, not really needed in these times of quick news-scattering, was of vital importance in earlier and stormier days. As soon as a king died, his successor was proclaimed as promptly as possible, to forestall other claimants to the throne. To delegate this function to the late king's own Heralds was one way of proving that the news was authentic.

Note: The pageantry of London, including quaint and colorful customs and costumes, is pictured and described in the following: "As London Toils and Spins," *National Geographic Magazine*, January, 1937; "Great Britain on Parade" and "Shadowy London by Night," August, 1935; "Vagabonding in England," March, 1934; "Some Forgotten Corners of London," February, 1932; "Highlights of London Town," May, 1929; and "London from a Bus Top," May, 1926.

See also in the GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS: "Trooping the Color for the King's Birthday," week of May 18, 1936.

Bulletin No. 5, January 4, 1937.

Photograph by Topical Press Agency

THE LORD MAYOR OF LONDON PUTS ON A SHOW

Although his constituency is only a mile square, the Lord Mayor of London's job is a most spectacular one. His one-year term is inaugurated with a triumphal procession to the Royal Courts of Justice to take his oath. With the coach-and-six, military escort, and colorful representatives of London's businesses, the annual "Lord Mayor's show" comes on November 9.

UMI